

Law Course Offerings (rev. June 2017)

Undergraduate General Education (offered periodically)

- LAW 110 Introduction to Armenian Justice System
- LAW 142 Introduction to Human Rights
- LAW 160 Law & Justice in Popular Culture

Graduate Courses - LL.M. Program (Required courses offered annually. Electives offered periodically. Check with the LL.M. Program)

- LAW 300 International Legal English
- LAW 304 Legal Methods & Argumentation
- LAW 305 Legal Profession
- LAW 310 Republic of Armenia (RA) Civil Law Basics
- LAW 315 Survey of American Law
- LAW 318 Introduction to American Law
- LAW 319 Topics in American Law
- LAW 328 Introduction to Labor Law
- LAW 330 European Union Law
- LAW 334 European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)
- LAW 339 Topics in European Law
- LAW 340 Public International law
- LAW 341 International Law from Armenian Perspective
- LAW 342 Human Rights Law
- LAW 344 International Criminal Law
- LAW 345 Human Rights & Criminal Justice
- LAW 348 International Humanitarian Law
- LAW 349 Topics in PIL
- LAW 350 Business Organizations
- LAW 351 Project Financing
- LAW 352 International Business Transactions
- LAW 353 Banking and Securities Regulation
- LAW 354 Tax Law
- LAW 355 Corporate Governance
- LAW 356 Intellectual Property
- LAW 359 Topics in Business Law
- LAW 363 Topics in Comparative Law
- LAW 365 Administrative Law
- LAW 367 Negotiations
- LAW 368 Topics in ADR
- LAW 369 Topics in ECHR
- LAW 370 International, European and National Environmental Law
- LAW 371 Introduction to Environmental Law
- LAW 390 Master's Paper
- LAW 391 Independent Study
- LAW 392 Clinical

LAW 110 Introduction to the Armenian Justice System

This course explains the institutions and processes of the Armenian justice system as they affect the lives of citizens, businesses and government agencies, including general courts, specialized courts, criminal, civil and administrative processes. The course aims to equip students to understand their rights and remedies for violation of rights, as well as the role of various government bodies, courts, police, prosecutors, regulators, in the administration and establishment of justice in Armenian society. Instructor-led course will draw on case studies to examine a range of common situations students, citizens, and businesses face in everyday life. (3 credits)

LAW 142 Introduction to Human Rights

The Introduction to Human Rights course will introduce students to the key concepts, rules and debates in the theory and the practice of contemporary international human rights. In particular, the course focuses on the historical development and philosophical and political foundations of human rights. Students will also explore international and national mechanisms for the protection of human rights, e.g. UN treaty and charter mechanisms, European systems of human rights protection, national judiciaries, human rights institutions and civil society organizations. Students will examine selected human rights and freedoms in order to understand human rights in practice. At the end of the course students study the national and international legal grounds for limitations and derogations from human rights. (3 credits)

LAW 160 Law & Justice in Popular Culture

This course explores how legal concepts, role models, and professional ethos in popular culture promote and reinforce the rule of law. The course aims to explore how dedicated individuals using the skills and arts of persuasive and knowledge of the law can expand justice in their societies by the use of legal mechanisms. Through the medium of film and literature followed by class discussion, the following basic concepts are reviewed: social contract theory, professional ethics, rule of law (e.g. resort to courts and legal structures to resolve conflict as an alternative to violence), comparative review of legal systems (e.g. use of juries, class action mechanisms, etc.) and standard defendant rights (right against self-incrimination, right to counsel), professional responsibility for attorneys and judicial ethics, and legal advocacy. (3 credits)

LAW 262 Public Advocacy

Increasingly lawyers, because of their insight into public policy, are called upon to use their skills to advocate in the court of public opinion and other fora beyond the formal courtroom and deliberative assembly. This course aims to equip students with models and skills to be effective public advocates. In addition to learning theoretical models and case studies, students will be called upon to design advocacy strategies and make written and oral presentations in simulations of public deliberation. (3 credits)

LAW 300 International Legal English

This course introduces students to English terminology and constructs related to basic legal concepts and general aspects of legal systems. The course also teaches students to perform legal practice skills in English as they relate to the following commercial law topics: company formation and management; capitalization; contract negotiation; remedies and assignment; employment issues; sale of goods law; real and intellectual property problems; negotiable instruments; secured transactions; debtor-creditor interactions; and competition law. More than other fields, precision and competence in written expression is a tool of the legal profession. The course reinforces core reading, writing, listening and speaking skills in English and prepares students to obtain the International Legal English Certification upon successful completion of the ILEC exam. (3 credits)

LAW 304 Legal Methods and Argumentation

This course is a legal problem solving based introduction to legal method and legal analysis as practiced in Western law today. Students will learn basic research skills, sources of precedent, the role of precedent and the development of precedent in the common law, the reading and "briefing" of cases, the reading and interpretation of statutes, the legal analysis of factual problems, objective legal writing (IRAC method) and basic legal argument. Argumentation is the use of effective reasoning to persuasively communicate an idea or position. Since classical times, argumentation has been a highly valued skill, even an art form. In this course, students will learn how to make deductive and inductive arguments; how to identify and utilize the elements of rhetoric; how to evaluate the claims, evidence, and inferences underlying arguments; how to understand and manipulate burdens of proof; and generally how to identify and utilize other argumentation frameworks and techniques. To complete the course students must present an argument, field questions from the class and/or participate in a formal debate with another student. (3 credits)

LAW 305 Legal Profession

This course will examine the basic rules that govern the conduct of lawyers with respect to their clients, third parties and the courts, using as a guide case law, ethics opinions, the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct, the New York Rules of Professional Conduct and Rules on Advocate's behavior in the Republic of Armenia. The emphasis will be on practical, real-world application of the rules, principally in a law firm setting. Among the topics that will be covered are the formation and termination of the attorney-client relationship, conflicts of interest, client confidentiality, attorney-client privilege, special issues relating to corporate clients, multijurisdictional and unauthorized practice, and legal malpractice and discipline. (1 credit)

LAW 310 Republic of Armenia (RA) Civil Law Basics

This course will introduce the Civil Law thorough understanding of such fundamental categories as natural or legal persons, joint-stock companies, contracts and torts. It examines the basic principles of the Armenian Civil law and provides an understanding of private law basics, as it sets out the norms of conduct in both daily life and commercial activities. To that the Course will enable enhanced understanding of the Civil Code's place as a cornerstone of all private law, followed by examination of the legal status of natural and legal persons, property law and transactions. The course will also incorporate instruction on the basics of contract law, including the most common contract varieties, as well as tort and inheritance law. (2 credits)

LAW 315 Survey of American Law

This course aims to give an overview of American law for non-US-lawyers. It approaches American law from a comparative, systemic point of view. The course examines the institutions, processes and main substantive areas of US law, viewing US legal system as a well-developed model, whose operation, evolution, problems and trends are well studied and documented. The course requires extensive reading of primary US materials (court decisions, statutes, regulations) as well as secondary sources on US legal doctrines and the American/common law way of thinking about legal problems. Upon completing the course, students should be able to identify the typical ways legal issues are handled in the US system in various common fields of law and to be able to explain them in terms of other legal systems they may be familiar with, e.g., the Armenian or continental legal systems. (3 credits)

LAW 318 Introduction to American Law

This course introduces the United States legal system and is designed specifically for students who come from jurisdictions other than the U.S. During the course the students will learn about the State and Federal judicial system of the United States, structures and functions of different legal institutions. They will learn about the legal concepts specific to common law and will be introduced to major landmark

cases that have become the bases of the nowadays-legal system. The topics will include jury trials, subject matter and personal jurisdiction, etc. The students will be offered to compare and discuss the peculiarities of the American law with the laws and concepts of own jurisdictions. (1 credit)

LAW 319 Topics in American Law

LAW 328 Introduction to Labor Law

This course examines International and Armenian laws governing issues related to employment law (such as: fair and equal treatment, work place safety, etc.), as well as issues related to safety of personal information (personal data) and labor contract information confidentiality at work place. The course will be focusing on World Labor Organization (WLO) adopted principles, US and EU employments peculiarities including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Family and Medical Leave Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act, as well as Armenian Labor Code main guiding principles. The primary focus of the course will be national labor law, including neighboring laws. The course will also have analytical and practical assignments on labor contract drafting and court case study examples. (1 credit)

LAW 330 European Union Law

This course gives an overview of the European Union institutional and legal structure, its foundation documents, and regulatory framework, as well as issues relating to transactions and economic activity in the EU. (3 credits)

LAW 334 European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR)

This course gives an overview of the European Convention on Human Rights and the procedures for appealing cases to the ECHR. Topics include applicability of ECHR in domestic courts, a survey of the most important ECHR precedents and trends. (3 credits)

LAW 339 Topics in European Law

LAW 340 Public International Law

From a legal problem solving perspective this course explores public international law in both an Armenian and regional context. Topics reviewed include sources of public international law and its contemporary development, the expanding scope of international actors (including non-State actors like corporations), the utility of international and domestic fora and reviewing modern day challenges to future public international law development. (3 credits)

LAW 341 International Law from an Armenian Perspective

This problem-oriented course aims to teach students the specifics of rules of international law as they apply to Armenia and Armenian issues. Topics will include current international law issues facing Armenia, including the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict, EU-Armenia relations, Armenia-Turkey Relations, national security and trans-border environmental and cultural heritage issues. The course is practice oriented, going beyond analysis of applicable legal norms and precedents to consider available enforcement mechanisms, and remedies. (3 credits)

LAW 342 Human Rights Law

By presenting legal problems for discussion and resolution, this course introduces students to the principles and the practice of contemporary human rights law in the world and in an Armenian context. Attention is given to the development of individual claims against states regarding issues of torture; civil and political rights; economic, social and cultural rights; and women and ethnic minority rights. Also explored are contemporary challenges to international humanitarian law and individual accountability

through the development of international criminal law. Sources of law reviewed include international treaties, customary law and Armenian legislation. (3 credits)

LAW344 International Criminal Law

International criminal law is a rapidly growing modern discipline of law. The historical goal for the development of this discipline was to end the impunity of individuals responsible for mass atrocities. International criminal law is a body of law containing legal provisions, institutions and traditions from public international law, comparative criminal law and human rights law. One of the aims of this course is to introduce students the key areas of international criminal law by engaging them in reading, researching, problem solving exercises and discussion regarding the most important aspects of this discipline. The other aim of this course is to promote interest in international criminal law among the members of the legal community of Armenia. (3 credits)

LAW 345 Human Rights & Criminal Justice

In this course students explore a number of fundamental human rights that are applicable during criminal procedure from the moment of arrest to the final appellate decision. These criminal justice rights are examined in various situations where such a right may compete with other values and public interests, e.g. effective control of and fight against criminality. It is in such situations that different societies or decision-makers and policy-makers engage with complex and often controversial choices. The first part of this course will concentrate on pre-trial rights in the phase of investigation, while the second part focuses on trial rights during trial and appellate phases. The last two classes conclude this course by exploring the causes and solutions of ‘wrongful convictions’, a phenomenon that draws increasing attention in parallel to technological and scientific development. (3 credits)

LAW 348 International Humanitarian Law

This course immerses students in the principles and the practice of contemporary International Humanitarian Law through an evolving complex case study. To teach advocacy and analytical skills, students are assigned various roles as they represent the interests of conflicting parties, divergent governmental interests and international organizations. Taught in conjunction with the ICRC, specific areas of IHL addressed include the qualification of armed conflicts, legal protections for non-combatants, prisoners of war, civilians, and cultural property as well as legal limits on the use of weaponry. (3 credits)

LAW 349 Topics in PIL

LAW 350 Business Organizations

This course focuses on corporations, their formation and structure, the role of shareholders, management, regulators and other stakeholders, capital structures, kinds of securities, corporate financing, open vs. closed companies, and typical transactions and documents involved in corporate formation and investments. (3 credits)

LAW 351 Project Financing

Project financing has become an increasingly preferred and used method of a combination of financing and investment. Although different methods of project financing are used in developed countries, in developing countries it is mostly used for implementation of major infrastructural projects, such as construction of roads, power plants, gas and oil pipelines, refineries, etc. It is also used in mining exploration, exploitation and development as well as in development of large industries, such as construction, equipping and putting into operation of large industrial complexes. Project financing in developing countries almost always involves foreign financiers and developers and, in some cases, a combination of both. As such, it raises private international law issues, project owner guaranties, such as government guaranties in public sector contracts as well as issues related to methods of resolution of international commercial disputes.

The course is intended to offer practical knowledge of some more common types of project financing such as Export Credit, Buy-Back, BOT and BOOT aimed at providing the participants with the necessary skills for examination, commenting on negotiating such contracts. It is also aimed at improving the contract drafting skills of the participants. (2 credits)

LAW 352 International Business Transactions

This course covers basic international sales of goods and services transactions, leasing, licensing, as well as investment, financial and secured transactions, and the typical kinds of documents and issues practitioners and client face in such transactions, including choice of law, dispute resolution, intellectual property, security, authority, customs, tax and other regulatory matters. (3 credits)

LAW 353 Banking and Securities Regulation

It will not be an exaggeration to say that financial sector as one of the main drivers of a national economy is also most heavily regulated one, and that is true for jurisdictions throughout the world. The course is intended introduce the students to the fundamental principles and targets of banking and securities market regulation, the regulation logic and goals it seeks to achieve. The course focuses on the regulatory regime of financing of businesses, their interaction with professional market participants, investors and regulators. It is structured in way that allows the students to capture general ideas and principles applicable worldwide as well as to get sense of peculiarities of Armenian financial regulatory system. After completing this course, students will be able to understand the regulatory goals and tools of market efficiency, investor protection and financial stability. Throughout the course financial regulation and policies will be discussed both at the domestic and international level. The course will help the students critically evaluate new developments in banking and securities regulation and their implementation in different contexts. (2 credits)

LAW 354 Tax Law

National taxation plays an important role in the public and economic policy of any country, serving many ends: economic, social, political, moral to name a few. However, in light of increasing cross-border mobility of goods, services, capital and labor, taxes became a crucial tool for international policy and economic competition. This course is an introduction to international aspects of taxation with particular focus on tax competition, double taxation treaties, transfer pricing. The course will also examine how the tax system of Armenia is facing the challenges posed by the rapidly integrating global economy. The Armenian perspective on each of the major topics discussed will be presented throughout the course. (3 credits)

LAW 355 Corporate Governance

The Corporate Governance course presents and examines the main theories and practical issues of corporate structure, agency problem, shareholder primacy, control, as well as boardroom structure, strategies, corporate officials' compensation. The course will also present the current discussions on newly emerging and developing financial investment mechanisms, such as hedge funds and private equity funds and their impact over the issues of corporate governance. The course will include readings covering the law and practice of the United States, European countries, and comparative analysis will be conducted with the Armenian legislation and practice. In the end of the course several issues of corporate criminal liability, compliance, and freedom of speech will also be explored. (2 credits)

LAW 356 Intellectual Property

This course aims to give students an overview of the kinds of intellectual property rights (copyright, patents, trademarks, trade secrets, etc.) and to introduce the fundamentals of intellectual property law through discussion and analyses of leading US court decisions. The course will also explore the main differences between the European, Armenian and the US Intellectual Property legislation and case law, as well as discuss the main issues involved in IP protection, registration, licensing, and litigation. (3 credits)

LAW 359 Topics in Business Law

LAW 363 Topics in Comparative Law

This course gives an overview of civil and common law systems as well as the methods and sources of comparative law. Topics may include comparative institutions (e.g., courts), comparative substantive law (e.g., contracts or property), or historical and jurisprudential comparisons, and other legal systems (e.g., Islamic law, canon law, Armenia's Datastanagirk). (3 credits)

LAW 365 Administrative Law

Individuals deal with administrative law from the moment their birth certificate is issued until the issuance of their death certificate, as well as every time they cross a street regulated by traffic lights in between. Administrative law regulates the exercise of many fundamental human rights, such as the freedom of association and assembly, freedom of expression and regulation of media, freedom of religion and free enjoyment of property. In many countries administrative law also regulates the launch and conduct of business, such as business registrations, licenses and inspections. In some countries administrative law governs eligibility for government benefits. Finally, administrative law guarantees judicial review of administrative action as a remedy against unlawful agency action. The aim of this course is to provide students with advanced knowledge of administrative law from Armenian, American and European perspectives, as well as to develop a number of skills necessary for practicing administrative law in Armenia. (3 credits)

LAW 367 Negotiations

This course aims to give students a framework for conducting orderly and effective negotiations, including preparation for negotiations, techniques and documents for handling typical situations that arise in business negotiations or dispute settlements. (3 credits)

LAW 368 Topics in ADR (Alternative Dispute Resolution)

LAW 369 Topics in ECHR

LAW 370 International, European and National Environmental Law

Environmental law is a global issue. This problem-oriented course introduces the various international European and national environmental law standards and frameworks applicable to various spheres of environmental concern. This course aims to familiarize students with the key concepts in the field of environment and considers how the environmental law may be used to facilitate environmental protection. The course will discuss the history, development, sources and principles of international environmental law and provide an overview of the international legal system in the context of environmental protection. The course will review the global issues related to environment, such as the environmental impact assessment and public participation, atmospheric protection, climate change, transboundary water and biodiversity to analyze the creation, implementation and effectiveness of international and the national environmental law. The course will address the role that international institutions play in the field of environment. The course will pay particular attention to global environmental problems such as the conservation of biological diversity and the international responses to climate change. The course will examine cross cutting issues, including the relationship between human rights and the protection of the environment. It will present the environment related case-law of the European Court of Human Rights. The course will cover the problems related to mining policy issues in Armenia. The course intends to provide overview of nuclear safety and civil protection legislation of Armenia. (3 credits)

LAW 371 Introduction to Environmental Law

This course focuses on International and Armenian laws governing issues related to air pollution, water and forest resources protection, biodiversity safety and land contamination. Moreover, the course will provide with a brief introduction to issues related to special protected natural areas and laws regulating specific environmental ecosystems existing in Armenia. Environmental impact assessment (EPA), control over payments for natural resources utilization and environmental pollution fees will be discussed during the course with connection to regulatory mechanisms incorporated into national civil, administrative and criminal legal acts. The course will also include the analysis of local and international case-law related to environmental protection. At the end, a hypothetical case study will be introduced for a mock-trial related to a common environmental law case. (1 credit)

LAW 390 Master's Paper

This is the Program's capstone experience, completed under the supervision of Program's faculty. The Master's Paper requires substantial research and writing and may include field work or case studies. Students shall select topics and determine the appropriate format and kind of research required in conjunction with the faculty advisor. All 2nd Year Students should enroll in this course in the Fall Semester and plan to complete their Master's Paper by the end of the term.

LAW 391 Independent Study**LAW 392 Clinical**